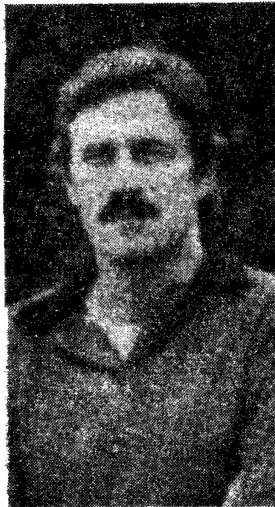


Maskell takes over Reserves



JOHN MASKELL
... reserve boss

JOHN Maskell, Wycombe Wanderers first choice goalkeeper for most of the past 17 seasons, has been appointed manager of the club's rejuvenated reserve team, writes **MICHAEL KNOX**.

Maskell's name has been linked closely with the post, ever since Wycombe's decision earlier this year to restart a reserve team after a 12-year break.

As a holder of a preliminary FA coaching badge, and a much respected club member, who is popular with the fans, Maskell seemed the obvious candidate.

But first team boss Mike Keen surprised some people by at first offering the job to

Football

the former Wycombe Wanderers captain John Delaney, who lives in the town.

'Big John', however, turned it down saying he would prefer to keep playing with Hampton. It was only then that Mr Keen approached Maskell, who readily accepted.

Important

Maskell, 37, explained his reasons for taking the job, where his most important task will be to weld first team squad members and local youngsters into a winning unit.

"I was naturally disappointed not to be the first choice for the job but I took it on to get some experience. I want to be a manager myself in due course.

"There was no better place to start than at Wycombe, so I can put something back into the club I have been with for 17 or 18 years."

Maskell, who feels that since his manipulative back operation last season he is still good enough to warrant a first team place, has every intention of carrying on playing.

"I've had a couple of offers to play for other clubs but I decided to stay at Wycombe and see how it goes for season," he added.

As yet, Maskell does not have an official title — that will come following talks with Mr Keen in the near future.

The two men start their first training session for Wycombe players at Bisham Abbey this Thursday, the same night as the club's annual meeting.

It is looking increasingly likely that Wycombe will be without strikers Gary Toll and Terry Scott for much, if not all of next season.

Toll seems set to be out in the Middle East for a year, while Scott is keen to stay and play football in the United States at college level.

News of another ex-Wanderer. Ray Eaton, the only player given a free transfer at the end of last season, will be starting the new season at Staines

Old Blue Lance

LANCE Jones, who played at outside right for Wycombe Wanderers in the late 1940s and early 1950s, is the new secretary of the Wycombe Wanderers Old Players Association. He takes over from Bert Crump, the former Wanderers centre half who died last month.

Blues to entertain Division 1 champs

WYCOMBE Wanderers open up their Berger-Isthmian League Premier Division campaign at home to last season's Division One champions Leytonstone and Ilford.

The match, on August 16, should give some indication of the Blue's effectiveness without the services of Terry Scott and Gary Toll. The team will be endeavouring to continue their tremendous run of form at the end of last season which saw them win their last seven league games.

Leytonstone amassed a total of 99 points during the run which took them to the championship. They lost only five matches, to finish 17 points clear of second placed Bromley who, incidentally, come to Loakes Park on November 1.

Football

In the Hitachi League Cup Wycombe will have to travel to one of their least favourite places — Hayes — for the first round to be played on Monday August 25.

LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sat Aug 16 v Leytonstone (H); Mon Aug 18 v Harrow Borough (A); Sat Aug 23 v Dulwich (A); Tue Sept 2 v Boreham Wood (H); Sat Sept 6 v Carshalton Athletic (H); Tue Sept 9 v Hitchin Town (A); Tue Sept 16 v Hayes (A); Sat Sept 20 v Harlow Town (A); Sat Sept 27 v Tooting (H); Tue Sept 30 v Leatherhead (H); Tue Oct 7 v Staines (A); Sat Oct 11 v Croydon (A); Tue Oct 14 v Woking (H); Sat Oct 25 v Enfield (H); Tue Oct 28 v Harrow Borough (H); Sat Nov 1 v Bromley (H); Tue Nov 4 v Boreham Wood (A); Sat Nov 8 v Dagenham (A); Tue Nov 11 v Hitchin Town (H); Sat Nov 15 v Barking (H); Sat Nov 22 v Hendon (A); Tue Nov 25 v Hayes (H); Tue Dec 2 v Leatherhead (A); Sat Dec 6 v Walthamstow Avenue (A); Tue Dec 9 v Staines Town (H); Sat Dec 13 v Sutton United (H); Tue Dec 16 v Woking (A); Sat

Dec 27 v Slough Town (H); Thur Jan 1 v Slough Town (A); Sat Jan 24 v Leytonstone (A); Sat Jan 31 v Dulwich (H); Sat Feb 7 v Carshalton (A); Sat Feb 14 v Harlow Town (H); Sat Feb 21 v Tooting and Mitcham (A); Sat Feb 28 v Croydon (H); Sat Mar 7 v Enfield (A); Sat Mar 14 v Bromley (A); Sat Mar 21 v Dagenham (H); Sat Mar 28 v Barking (A); Mon April 4 v Hendon (H); Sat April 11 v Walthamstow (H); Sat April 18 v Sutton (A).

season they will be coached by a former Marlow first team centre-half, Peter Sewell.

In the run in to the new season Marlow will have practice friendly fixtures against all-Isthmian League opposition.

They visit Egham on Saturday August 2; Chesham United will visit Marlow the following Tuesday and on Saturday, August 9 the visitors will be Feltham. Marlow will travel to play Slough Town on Tuesday, August 12 and the Kingsmead Athenian League programme will kick-off on Saturday, August 16 with an away match at Grays Athletic.

In the F.A. Cup Marlow have been drawn at home to Harrow Borough in a first qualifying tie.

Marlow prepare

TRAINING sessions at Marlow Football Club commenced last Tuesday in preparation for the coming new season, and the new manager, Barry Wanless, who replaces Phil Jarratt — now with Maidenhead United — is pleased with the way things are going.

Marlow's oldest nursery side, Marlow-Searles, have been training alongside the first team and in the coming